



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan
District of Massachusetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MA

CONTACT: CHRISTINA DiIORIO-STERLING
PHONE: (617)748-3356
E-MAIL: USAMA.MEDIA@USDOJ.GOV

LAWRENCE MAN CONVICTED OF DOUBLE FATAL ARSON

Boston, MA... A federal jury today found a Lawrence man guilty of committing a 2003 arson that resulted in the deaths of a young mother and her two-month-old baby daughter.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan, Glenn N. Anderson, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives - Boston Field Division, Peter Takvorian, Chief of the Lawrence Fire Department, Joseph Romano, Chief of the Lawrence Police Department, Stephen Coan, Massachusetts State Fire Marshal, and Jonathan W. Blodgett, Essex County District Attorney, announced today that **HARRY GUZMAN**, age 27, formerly of 197 West Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts, was convicted at the conclusion of a seven-day trial before United States District Judge Joseph L. Tauro of participating in the April 3, 2003 arson. Evidence introduced during the course of the trial showed that the fire caused extensive damage to an apartment building located at 48-50 Manchester Street in Lawrence and killed 26-year-old Matilda Medina and her two-month-old baby, Angelic Duran. Evidence showed that **GUZMAN**, either himself or aiding and abetting another person, set the fire on the rear porch of the building at 3:00 in the morning, when the residents of the building were sleeping. Most of the residents were able to evacuate the building, including Ms. Medina's older daughter, who was helped from the building by a boarder, but Ms. Medina and Angelic succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning sustained through smoke inhalation in their third-story bedroom.

Sentencing has been set for April 10, 2008. At that time, the defendant faces a minimum mandatory term of imprisonment of seven years and a maximum possible term of imprisonment of life; a maximum possible fine of \$250,000; a maximum possible term of supervised release of five years; and a mandatory \$100 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Lawrence Arson Task Force, comprising investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Lawrence Fire Department, the Lawrence Police Department, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Bureau assigned to the Essex County District Attorney's Office.

###